

April 17, 2014

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

A Legislative Committee meeting was held on Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Quorum Court Meeting Room, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas

Committee Members Present: Allen, J. Harrison, Sandlin, Anglin, Chiocco, Moore, Meyers

Others Present: JP Curry, Public Defender Jay Saxton, Administrator of General Services John Sudduth, Human Resources Manager Barbara Ludwig

JP Allen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Mike Clifford of Bentonville expressed his concern of the percentage increase paid into the APERS retirement funds.

Discussion – Changes to State Law

- Raising the amount being paid to the county for housing state prisoners

Discussion – Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Concerns

- Requiring ambulance service providers to respond to emergency calls regardless of whether they are being paid by the county or other entities
- Restricting ambulance provided to billing only patients who call for the service
- Seek an Attorney General's opinion to clarify language of the law regarding who can be billed.

Legislative Items 2013 Legislative Packet

The Legislative Committee members reviewed the legislative items from the 2013 legislative packet and after lengthy discussion of items listed, they agreed to discuss changing state laws with the county's legislative delegation.

- Setting a limit of not more than two special elections in a year
- Collecting tax on personal property the same year it is assessed
- Asking that the state or cities to pay more of the cost of district courts
- Reform the state retirement system to cap the rate county costs increase
- Change Worker' Compensation code to allow counseling services for employees

Meeting adjourned at 8.01 p.m.